



NEWS RELEASE

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Man Charged with Hit-and-Run Death in North Hills, Pursuit Ending in Pacific Palisades

An Escondido man has been charged with the hit-and-run death of a pedestrian in North Hills and then leading police on a pursuit which ended on PCH, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced today.

Mark Christian Johnson (dob 9/13/61) faces one felony count each of hit and run driving resulting in death, fleeing a pursuing peace officer's motor vehicle while driving recklessly and vehicular manslaughter.

Arraignment is scheduled for today in Department S of the Los Angeles County Superior Court, San Fernando Branch. Case PA086994 was filed on Aug. 18.

Victim José Serrano, 63, was walking on Sepulveda Boulevard and Parthenia Street on July 30 when he was allegedly struck by a Toyota Prius being driven by Johnson, prosecutors said. The defendant's damaged vehicle was reportedly later spotted by police in the San Fernando area and a pursuit began, prosecutors said.

Johnson was arrested when police forced his car to a stop on Pacific Coast Highway in Palisades Park.

The defendant faces a possible maximum sentence of more than 10 years in state prison if convicted as charged.

The case remains under investigation by the Los Angeles Police Department, Valley Traffic Division.

About the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey leads the largest local prosecutorial office in the nation. Her staff of nearly 1,000 attorneys, 300 investigators and 800 support staff members is dedicated to protecting our community through the fair and ethical pursuit of justice and the safeguarding of crime victims' rights.